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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,335	09/11/2003	Ikuo Makita	1538.1040	3760
21171	7590	04/18/2008		
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER LEMMMA, SAMSON B	
			ART UNIT 2132	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 04/18/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/659,335

Applicant(s)

MAKITA, IKUO

Examiner

Samson B. Lemma

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in reply to an amendment filed on January 04, 2008. Independent **claim 11** has been amended. Claims 1-33 are pending/examined.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. **Claims 1-10 and 12-33 are drawn to** an information processing method/an access method/executed by a center system, said information processing method comprising: receiving a first digital signature for specific data stored in said center system and a request to **allow a first user to read/update** said stored specific data, from a terminal of a second user;

confirming if an authority to give said first user permission to read/update said stored specific data is granted to said second user by **comparing the received first digital signature with a second digital signature**, which is registered in a data storage unit so as to correspond to said stored specific data; and

if said first signature and said second signature are identical, performing a processing for **enabling said first user to read/update** said stored specific data, classified in class 713 subclass 170;

II. Claim 11 is drawn to a data registration method executed by a center system, said data registration method comprising:

if specific data is received by said center system from a user terminal, generating hash data for said specific data;

transmitting said hash data to said user terminal;

receiving a digital signature generated from said hash data from said user terminal; and

registering said specific data, said hash data and said digital signature into a data storage unit,

wherein the registered hash data and the registered digital signature are used to confirm if an authority to access said specific data is granted to an access requestor, classified in **class 713, subclass 193**.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The inventions **in Group I, II**, are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable.

These groups can be separately usable.

Group I, which is drawn to access method/executed by a center system, said information processing method comprising: receiving a first digital

signature for specific data stored in said center system and a request to **allow a first user to read/update** said stored specific data, from a terminal of a second user;

confirming if an authority to give said first user permission to read/update said stored specific data is granted to said second user by **comparing the received first digital signature with a second digital signature**, which is registered in a data storage unit so as to correspond to said stored specific data; and

if said first signature and said second signature are identical, performing a processing for **enabling said first user to read/update** said stored specific data, is separately used from the particular **a data registration method** recited in group II, for providing another user browsing or updating permission to a user who holds the genuine digital signature for the specific data. This benefit is described in the applicant's specification on page 2.

On the other side,

Group II, which is drawn to a **data registration method** is separately used from the specific access control method recited in group I, because the particular method of **data registration method** which is recited in group II, is used and carried out for the **preparation of later usages** (for example, browsing, updating **and the like**) as it is indicated on the

applicant's specification on page 4, lines 3-12, "**third aspect of this invention.**"

As indicated above the data registration method could not only be used for browsing/reading or updating but also could also be used for deleting or writing or storing.

Note: A data registration can **be developed in various ways**. Group II is drawn to the **specific method** of registration. Once the registration is completed by following a certain specific steps and method as recited in the group II, the access control methods recited in group I could also be implemented **in various ways/methods**. Though, there could be different and many data registration method, only one and specific method of such methods is recited in Group II and such method is distinct from that of the specific access control method recited in Group I.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
5. Applicants are advised that the replay to this requirement to be completed must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

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6. Applicants is reminded that upon the cancellation of the claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samson B Lemma whose telephone number is 571-272-3806. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Friday (8:00 am---4: 30 pm).If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BARRON JR GILBERTO can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Samson B Lemma/
Examiner, Art Unit 2132
04/10/2008.

/Gilberto Barron Jr/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2132